

No 92
March 1st 1827

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Cynanchus Fracelinii

C. Mc. Blain

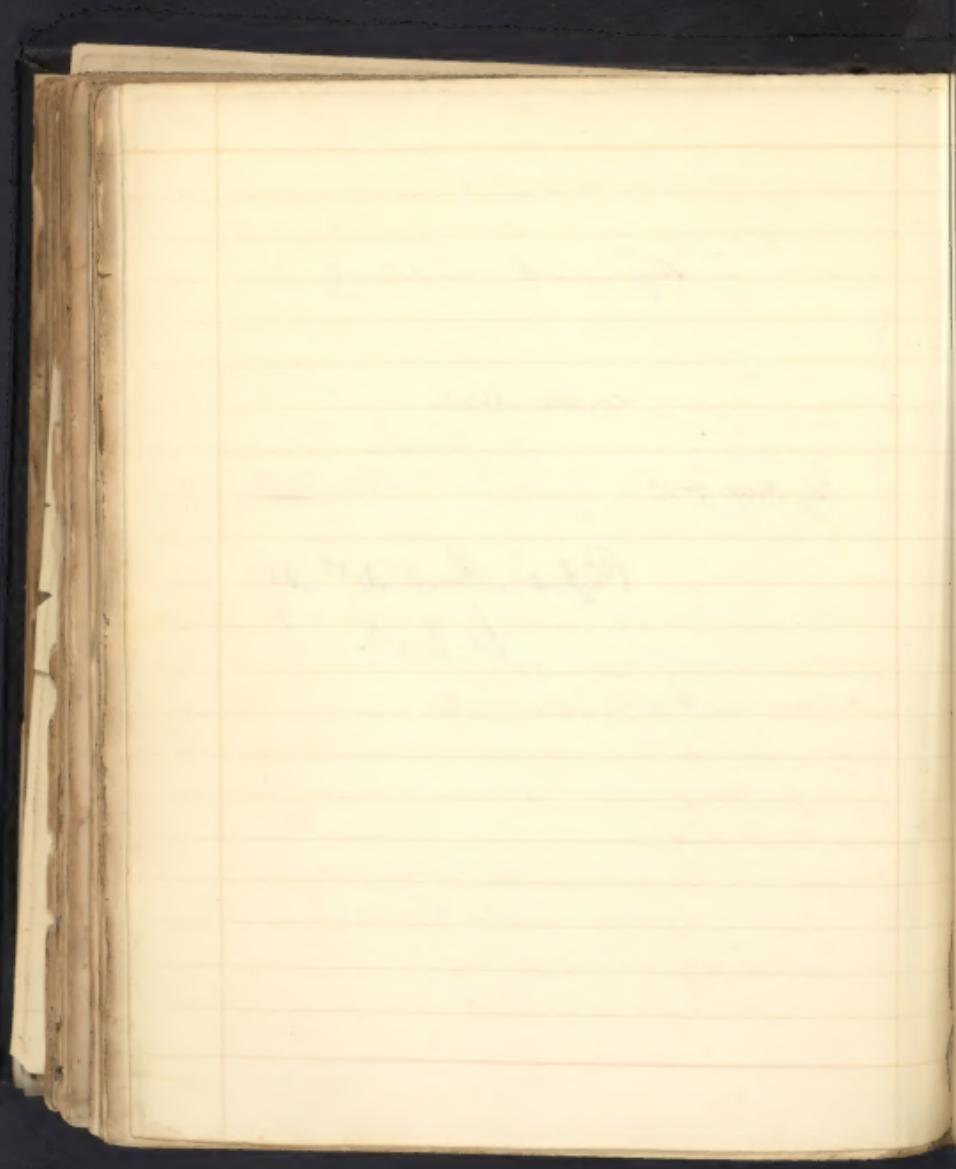
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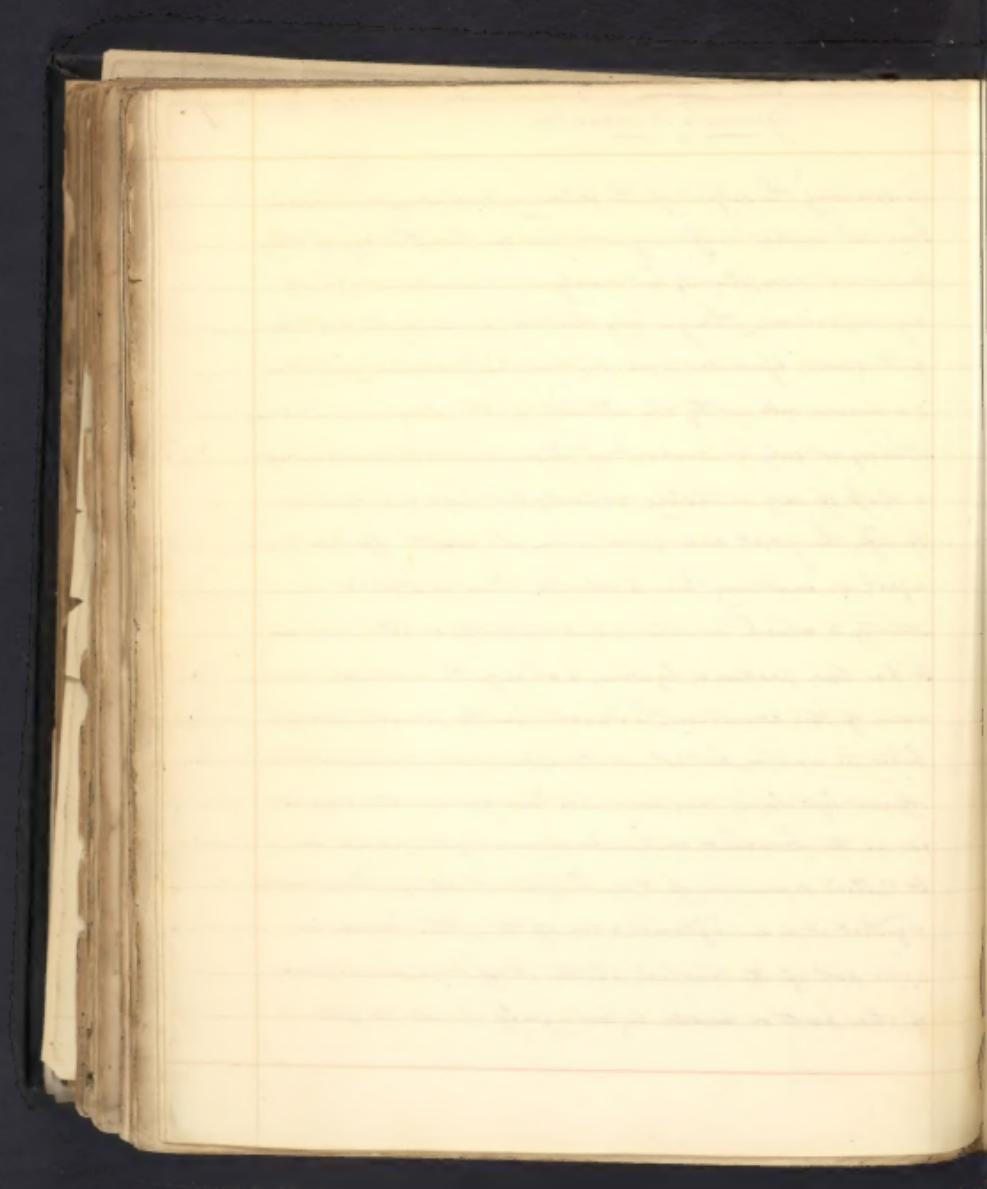
Room 2

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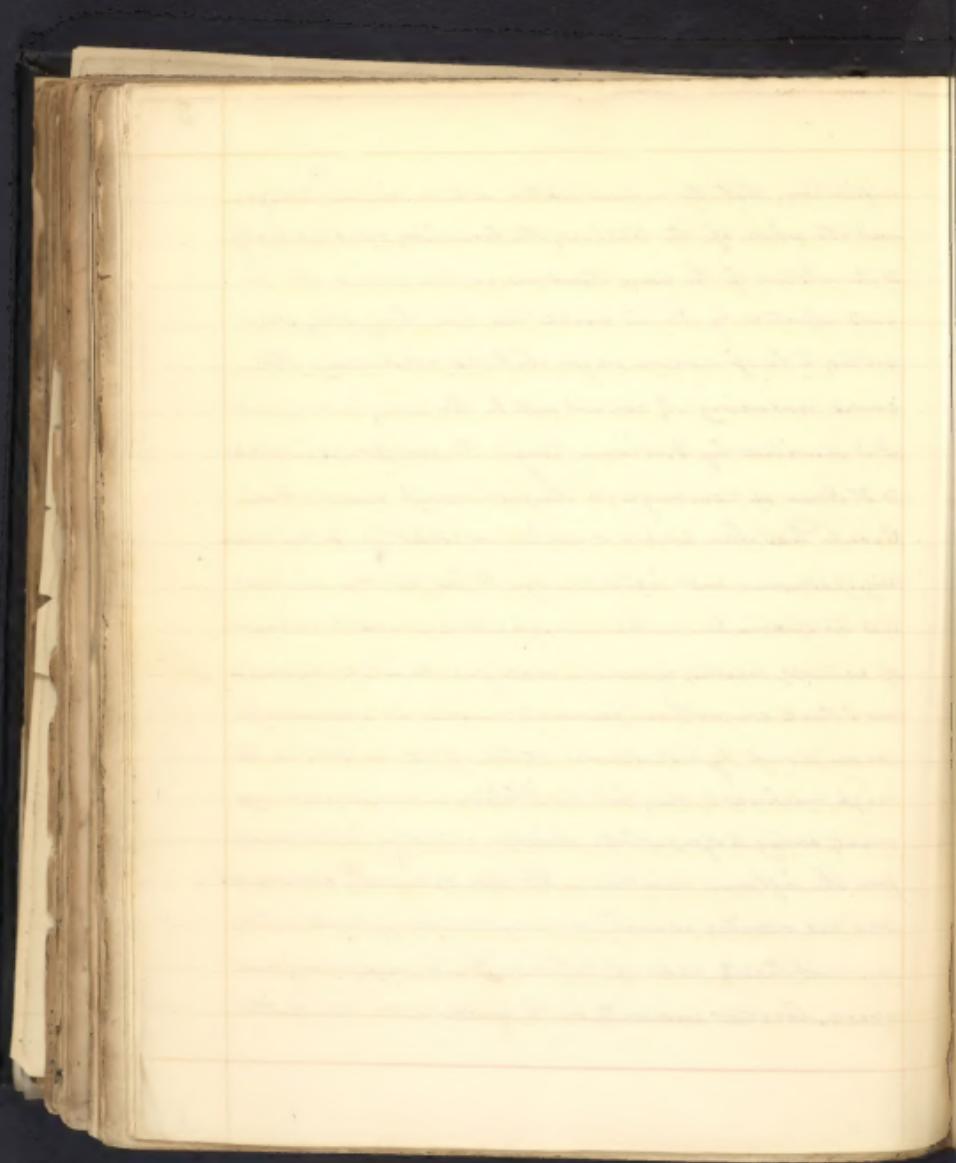
W. E. H.



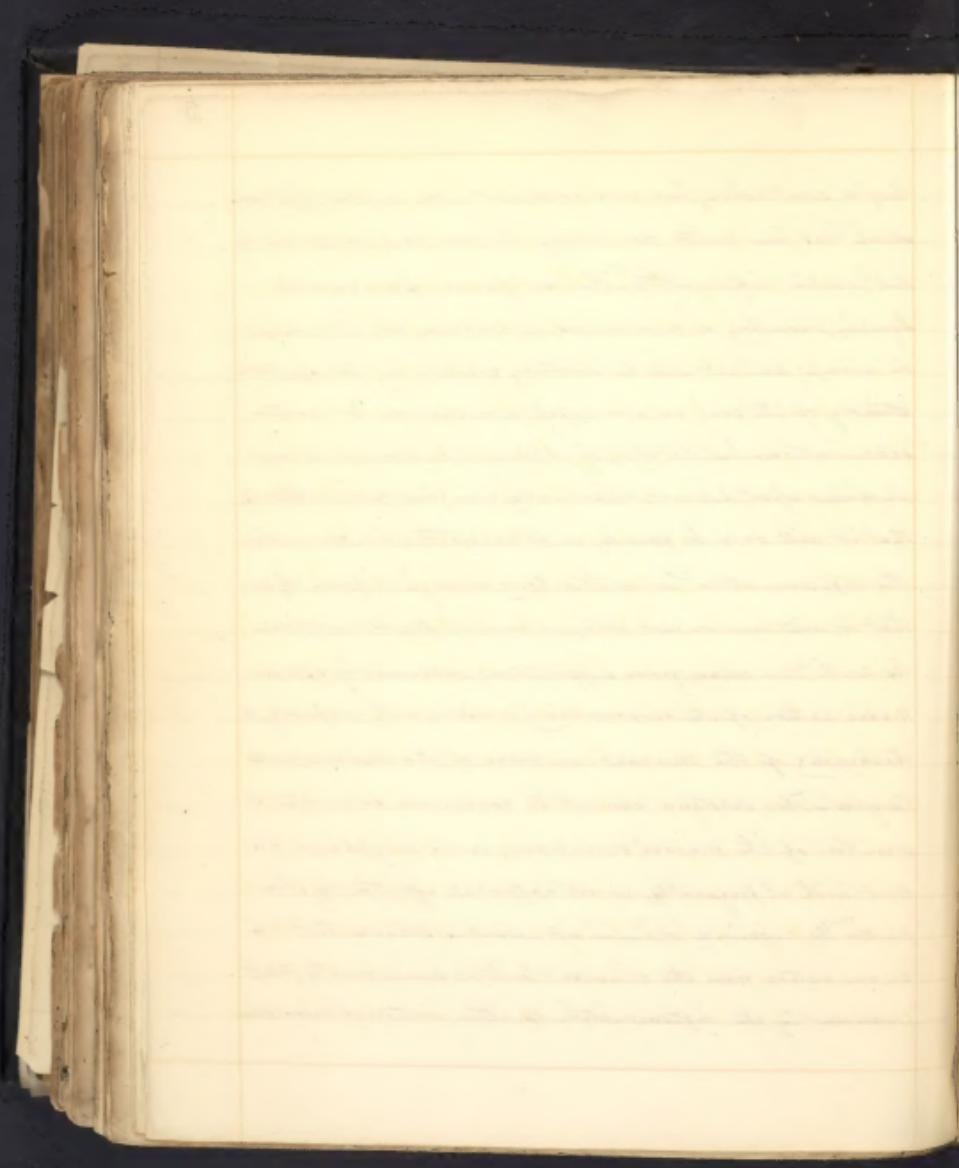
In selecting the subject of the following remarks for a Series, I do not pretend to offer any new view of the pathology of this important complaint, but merely to epitomize, what from my experience, (though very limited,) I consider the history of its causes, symptoms, and treatment. Synanche trachealis is a disease, well worthy the attention of the American Practitioner, not only on account of its frequent occurrence, among a class of very interesting patients, but because it deprived of life, the great and good man, who was the efficient agent, in enabling him to take the elevated station in society, to which his talents and industry entitling him.— It has been proposed by some, to change the nosological name of this complaint, to Tracheitis—this probably indicates better its nature, but not at the same time its seat, as the offend'd lymph, or membrane has been found extending as far as the bronchitis could be traced by the knife.— Dr. Cullen's definition of it, is, therefore not altogether correct viz.—that it is an inflammation of the glottis, larynx, or upper part of the trachea; whether it affect the membranous or thick parts or muscles adjoining.—If we add to this



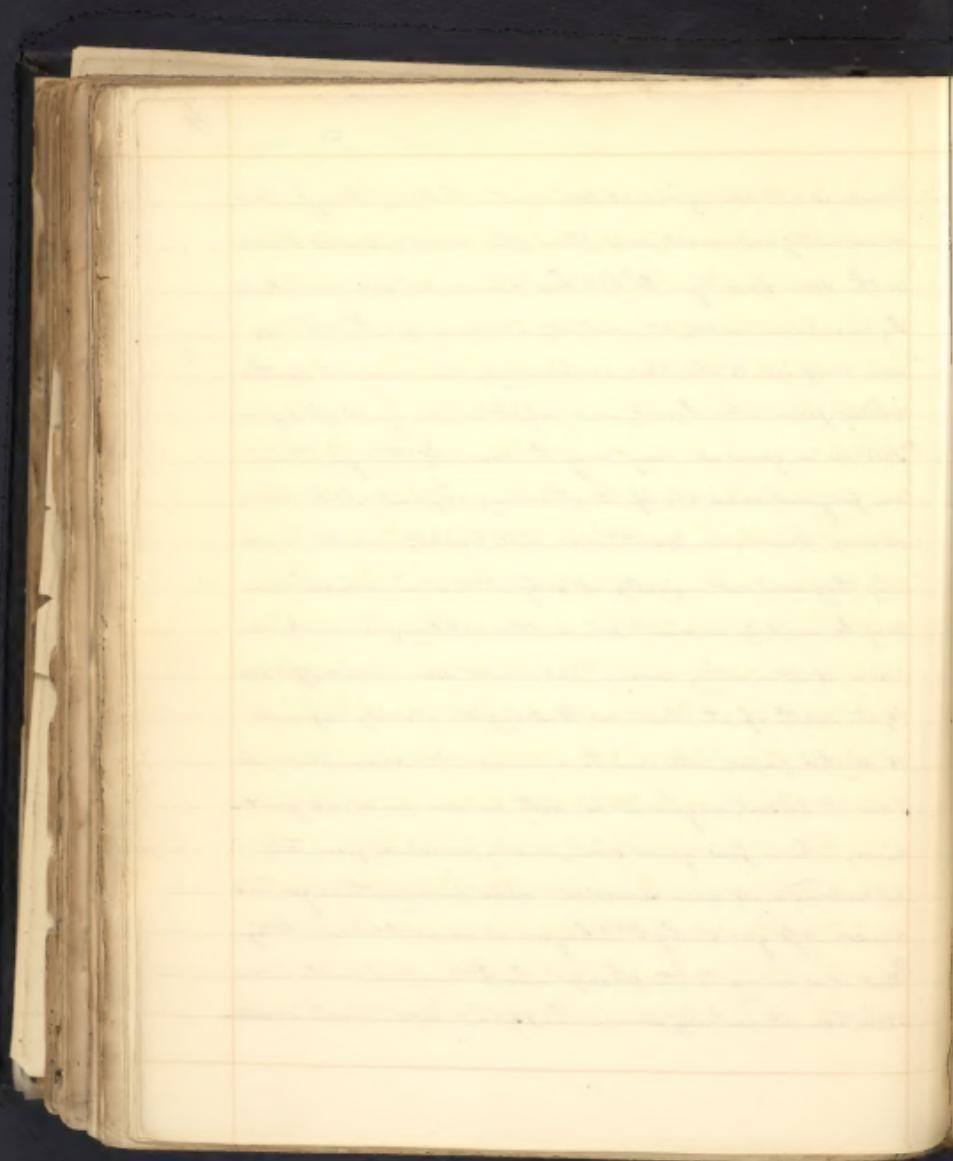
aspiration, that the inflammation extends sometimes throughout the whole of the trachea, the bronchia, and occasionally to the substance of the lungs themselves, we then include all the seats affected by it. This disease has been thought by some writers, to be of modern origin, but this, considering the causes producing it, can not well be the case; and in fact it is described by Bowditch through the profession in 1782 to Dr. Home of Edinburgh for the first correct view of it — Croup has been usually described as consisting of two forms viz. Redness and inflammatory — It has also been divided into two species Diopathic and symptomatic — As the concomitum of catarrh, muscles, epiphyses malignant &c — Their distinction and I think are without foundation — That it is frequently accompanied by a spasmodic action of the muscles in the neighbourhood is true; but this I believe is always a secondary effect, owing to sympathetic irritation extending to those muscles from the inflamed membrane — All those cases with croupy symptoms, and denoted as such, unaccompanied by febrile action, are most likely cases of asthma — It is always an original disease, located primarily in the mucous membrane of the



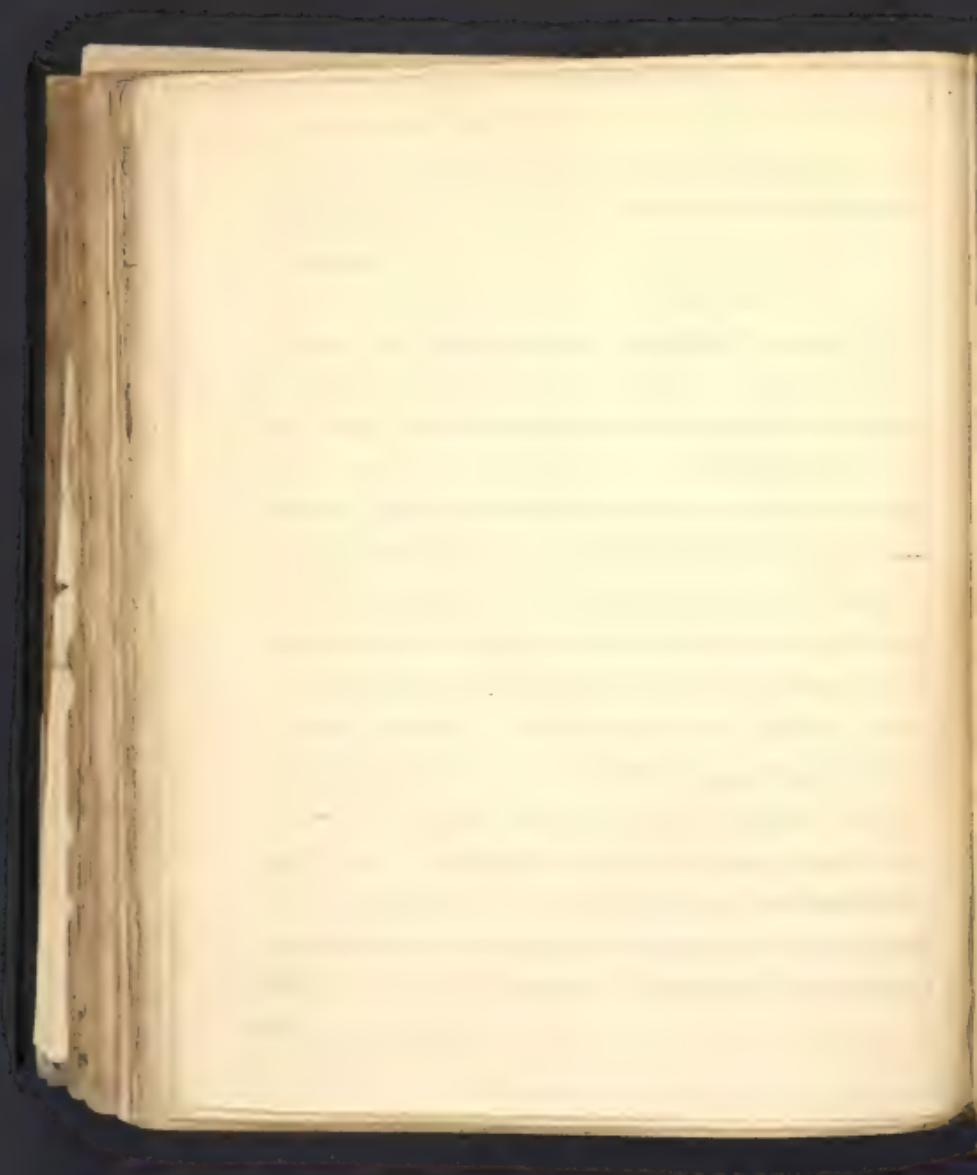
large and tubercles; and never concretes upon any other affection
such has been written concerning the membrane produced by
this peculiar inflammation - That an affection of coagulable
lymph, presenting a mucous appearance, does take place
in enough; can not well be doubted, considering the respectable
testimony of the fact, we now possess, derived from long and
extensive examinations but that it is, of frequent occurrence at some
physicians apoth, I do not believe - My own view of the matter is,
that it will only be found, in those protracted cases, where
the inflammation has excited long enough to form a due
mat with such as occurs from suppuration; induced, by a slight
modic action of the surrounding muscles, with probably, a
thickening of the mucous membrane of the trachea and
larynx - This substance can not be considered as an attend
ment of the mucous membrane; or no might expect to
met with it frequently, in all catarrhal affections of those
parts - The received opinion at present, is, I believe, that it is
an excretion from the cellular texture, analogous to that
produced by the inflammation of other internal membranes



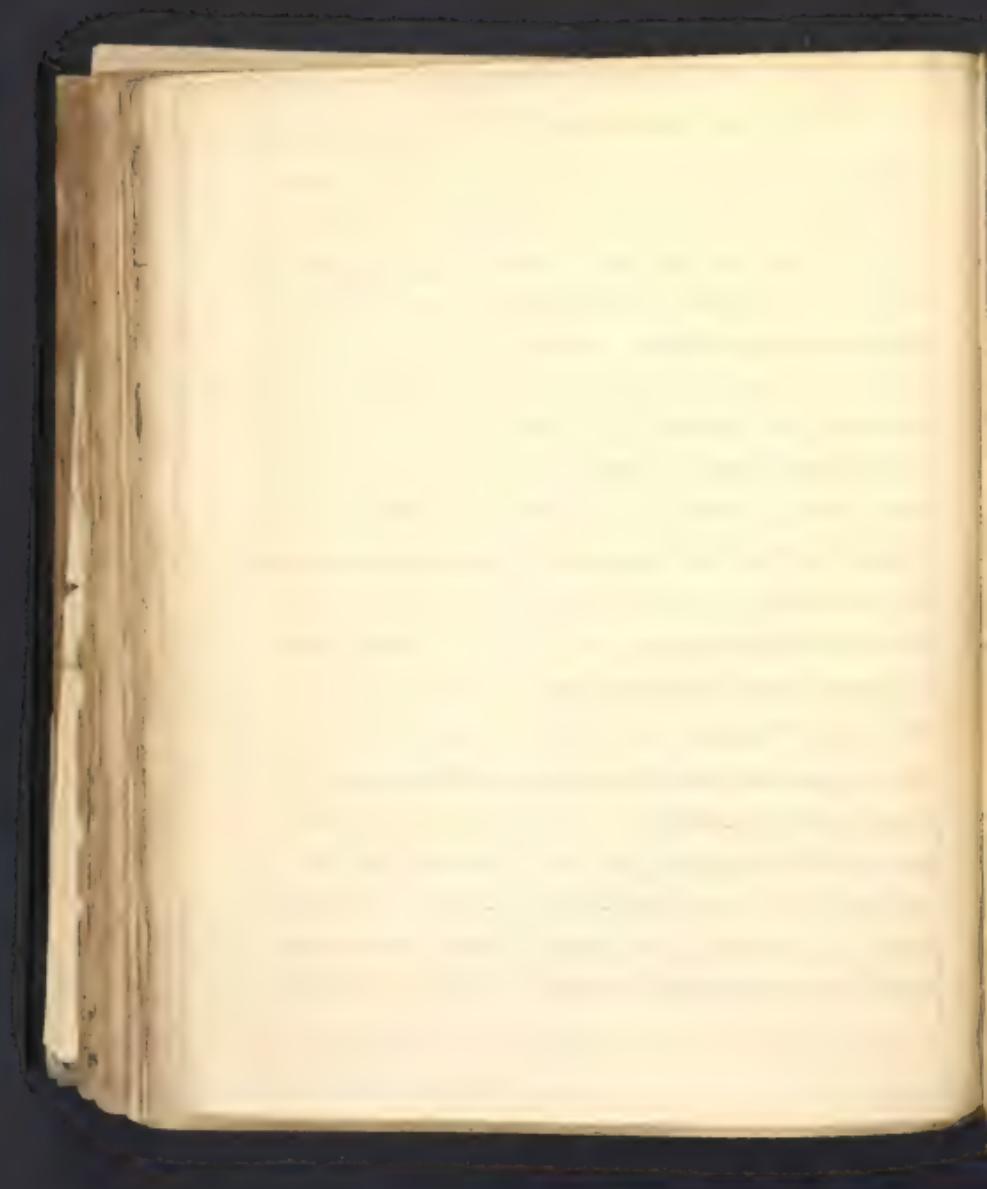
Croup is not contagious as some writers believe; though it is occasionally endemic, and there often exists a predisposition in the same family - It has been considered, and particularly by European writers, as peculiarly a disease of childhood, and confined to the time intervening, the removal of the child from the breast, and eight or ten years of age - This in a general way may be correct, though there are frequent examples of its attacking infants at the breast, as every American practitioner will know; and the reason why they are not equally as subject to it as dear children may be readily accounted for, in their not being as much exposed to its exciting causes - That adults sometimes suffer from it, the death of the illustrious Washington already referred to in this paper, will ever be a memorable example; and I am at present, acquainted with an old medical gentleman, who a few years since, nearly perished from an attack - For its rare occurrence after puberty the ingenious reason assigned by Dr. Chryses is no doubt correct viz - That it is owing to the change which happens in the constitution at puberty, and perhaps, in a more particular man-



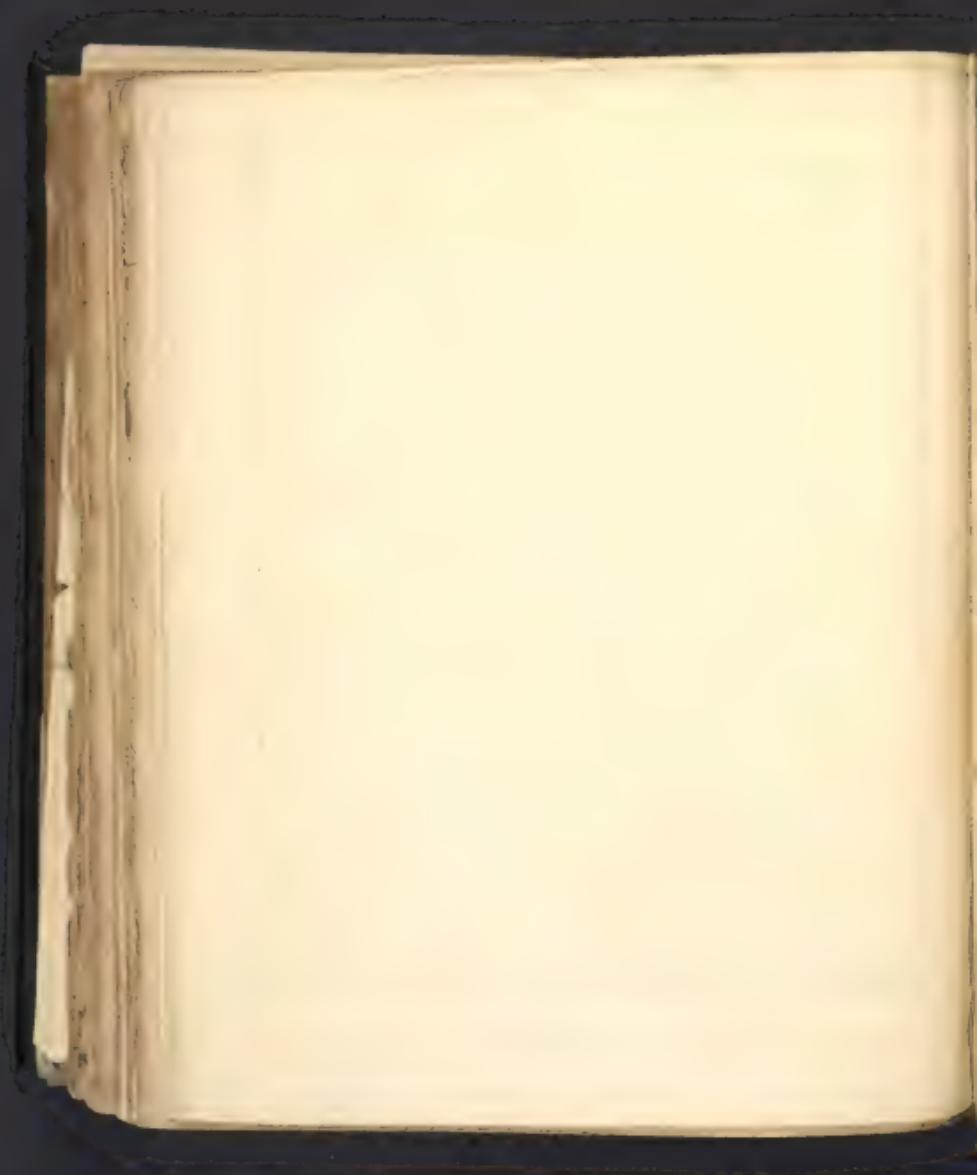
as in the disease which he upper part of the windpipe
undergoes?—He has, usually, however, little more than a fainting
spell or faint light with an absence of respiration
and the convulsions of the animal die; but, an improvement
but too frequently, the subject of its attack.—Disease is more
frequent occurring during winter and spring, the active
country, says, necessarily, exposing it to cold or to some illness, &
combining it with cold and moisture.—His own observation
leads me to conclude, that it may as readily be induced by
a change of temperature from warm to cold, at any
season, as in any situation, and that any unusual
quantity of moisture in the atmosphere, it not necessary
to its production.—The very earliest symptoms of this disease
are so peculiar, that I can seldom be misaken; yet even
after, perhaps, it may be advanced, and even then, it requires
no great discrimination, to discern the difference.—It
attacks either gradually or suddenly.—If in the former way,
a little patient application for some time, will, however, still have
an effect, with a languid exhalation of vapour, and
one not much increased in his usual play and conduct.—



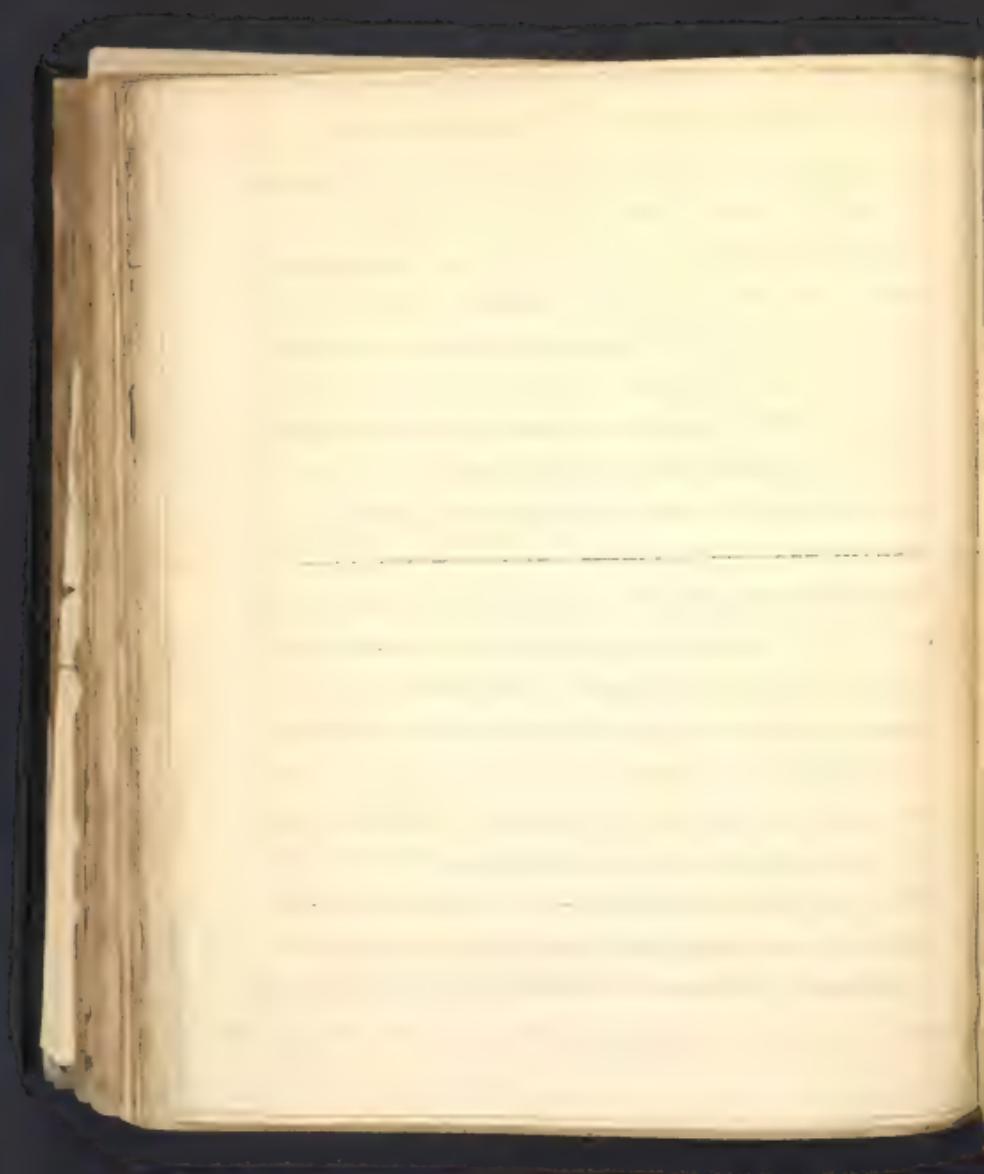
It is often with a rough sound, as in the hoarseness described
 very difficult from that of common catarrh. It is accompanied
 with other symptoms which increase in frequency and
 violence until the disease is completely developed. It is often
 silent & insidious without any previous warning, saving, however, it is
 most frequently towards morning - the patient
 may have gone to bed, apparently in high health and
 quietness. This usually occurs after a good deal of exposure
 during the day to cold and moisture, or to both - the child
 having continued at play, with its companions in moist
 snow until late in the evening or perhaps sitting upon
 ice during the prevalence of a high and cold winter.
 The examination by inspection confirms the view I have
 taken of this complaint. The mucous membrane of
 the larynx and trachea, is covered with coagulated
 lymph, adhering strongly to it, but more abundant
 and of firmer consistency, in the upper part of the
 trachea than elsewhere. The lungs have been found
 deeply involved in the inflammation, as evidenced
 by the hardness of their texture, and vicinity to the heart.



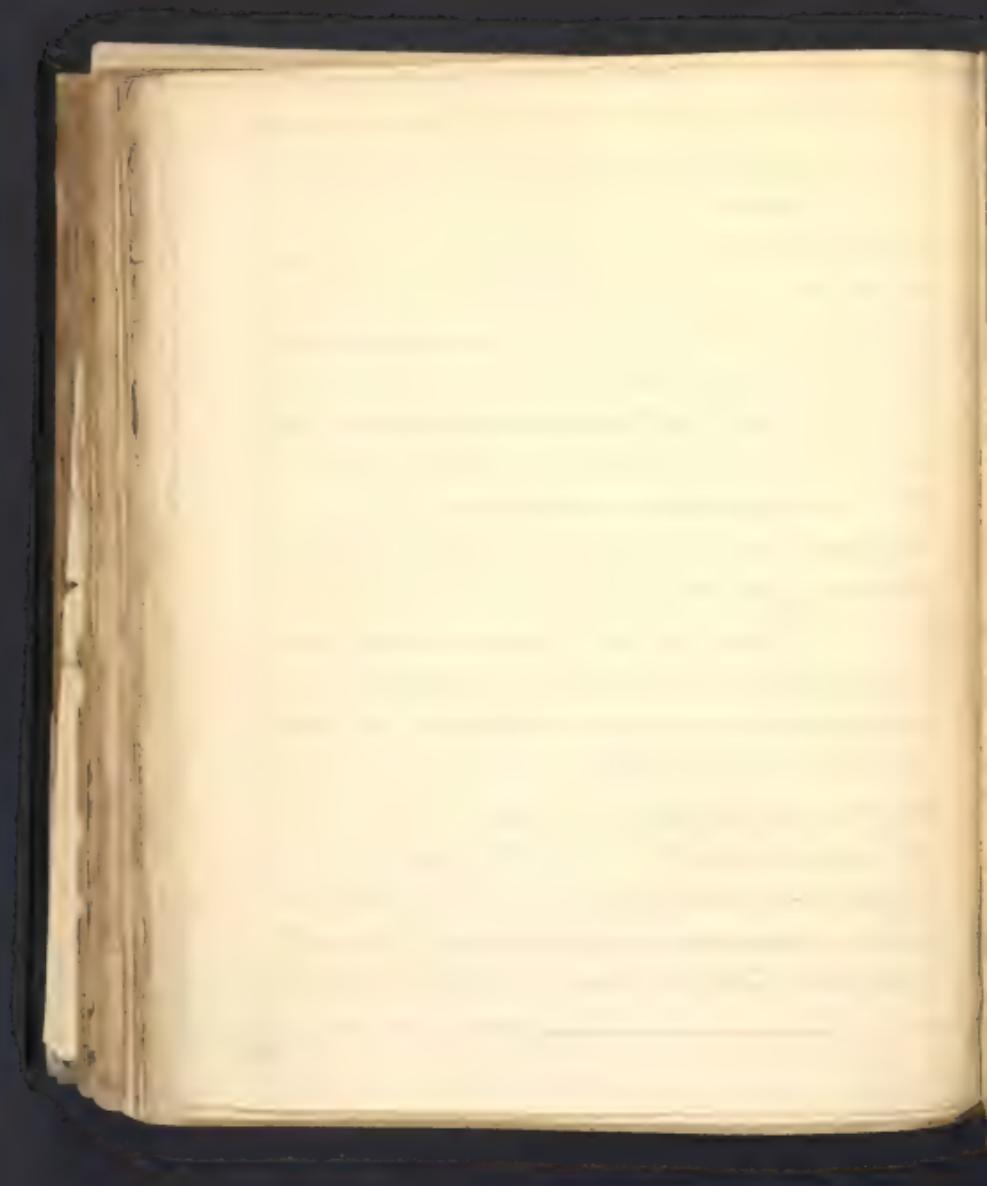
a red countenance, a red garment, and a thick
 callous appearance, now particularly the body, which
 suggests, etc., no doubt only a little truth, in those instances
 where the inflammation has resisted all remedies.—
 When the patient is compelled to give up the following symptoms,
 in a general way the last symptom of it is griping & shivering
 fits, barking & dry cough & sneezing, now, coincident with
 swelling of a viscous phlegm— is increased in frequency
 and violence agitating the patient more and more
 & each return the countenance is flushed and swollen—
 The eyes inflamed & watery, and the mouth pregnant
 filled with aropy mucous or viscous— the local affection
 now shows itself, by a difficult and laborious respiration,
 accompanied with a wheezing or hissing sound; abhorred
 by comparison by some, to the croaking of a rach, or the
 sounds of the hoot of a very poor— The pulse is frequent
 the skin hot and dry— the tongue is coated with a white
 for indication of inflammation; and you breathe, pain-
 er, anxiety, provides a drowsiness comes on, and the children sleep
 to slumber during the intervals of the paroxysms; but, from



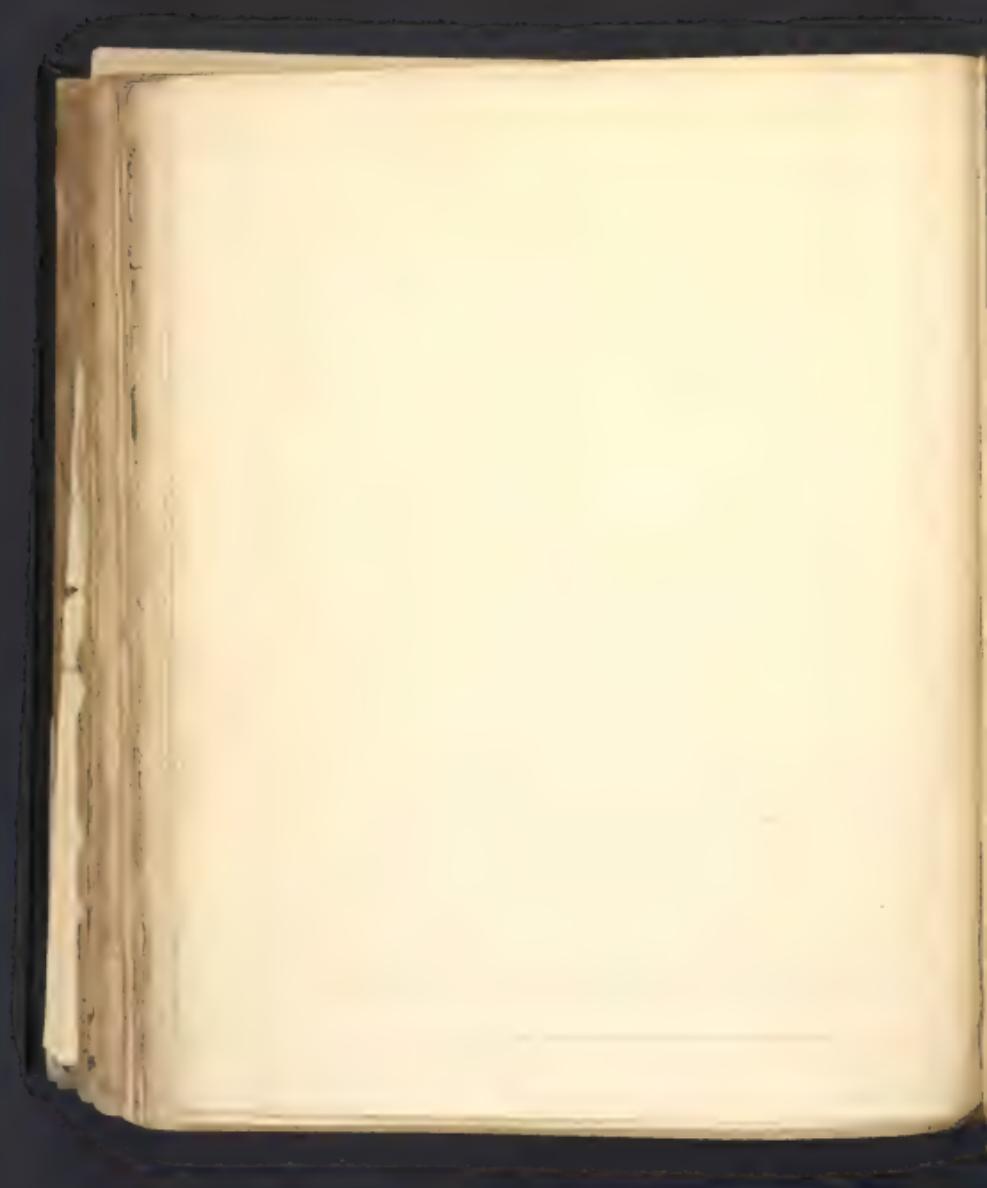
the it soon becomes a violent fit of coughing now and makes
the most convulsive and distressing efforts to renew respi-
ration. As the disease advances the breathing becomes
more difficult, the pulse weaker and sluggish till
it effectually ceases its opposition. The face now looks
an ashy or livid red in color - the gums white and
the tongue black. The pulse is now small and faint and stuporous
and there is great distress of suspensory. I have seen effusion
take place into the cellular texture of the cavity around
the lungs, so that the skin from which the disease had
been called arises about histomy, convulsions occasionally
occur, especially in very young children. In the ad-
vanced situation, the little sufficient continuity until death
comes or later, according to the strength the constitution,
rarely, if at all in such cases, the scene of the struggle being the
lungs, neither suppuration in the primary stage of comp-
lication would be particularly attended to; it is only, at
this time, that we can consider the disease as completely
under the control of medicine. It is of a very peculiar
kind, much better recollectedly than described. It is always



resembling rickets; but this may also exist unconnected
in coughing, and not in breathing - Its sound is clear and dis-
tinct, and has been variously thought to resemble the barking
of a small dog, or as it is said, from a trumpet or any
other metallic tube - It appears as if suddenly excited
by the irritation of some foreign body, in the larynx
or trachea, and the child seldom complains of pain
after the fit, as in the cough of croup - Croup
though a dangerous disease - May I think now be con-
sidered, as much under our control, as any other in-
flammatory affection occurring in a healthy constitution.
Its duration is uncertain, much depending on the aged
constitution of the patient - It sometimes lasts a few hours,
occasionally it is protracted for a week or longer, but
usually, if not arrested, it destroys life in the course
of 2 or 3 days - As to the treatment, I conceive that this
may be best detailed by dividing it into three stages,
and particularly according to the views of Dr. Price's Day
taken of it viz. the first, second, and third or congestive -



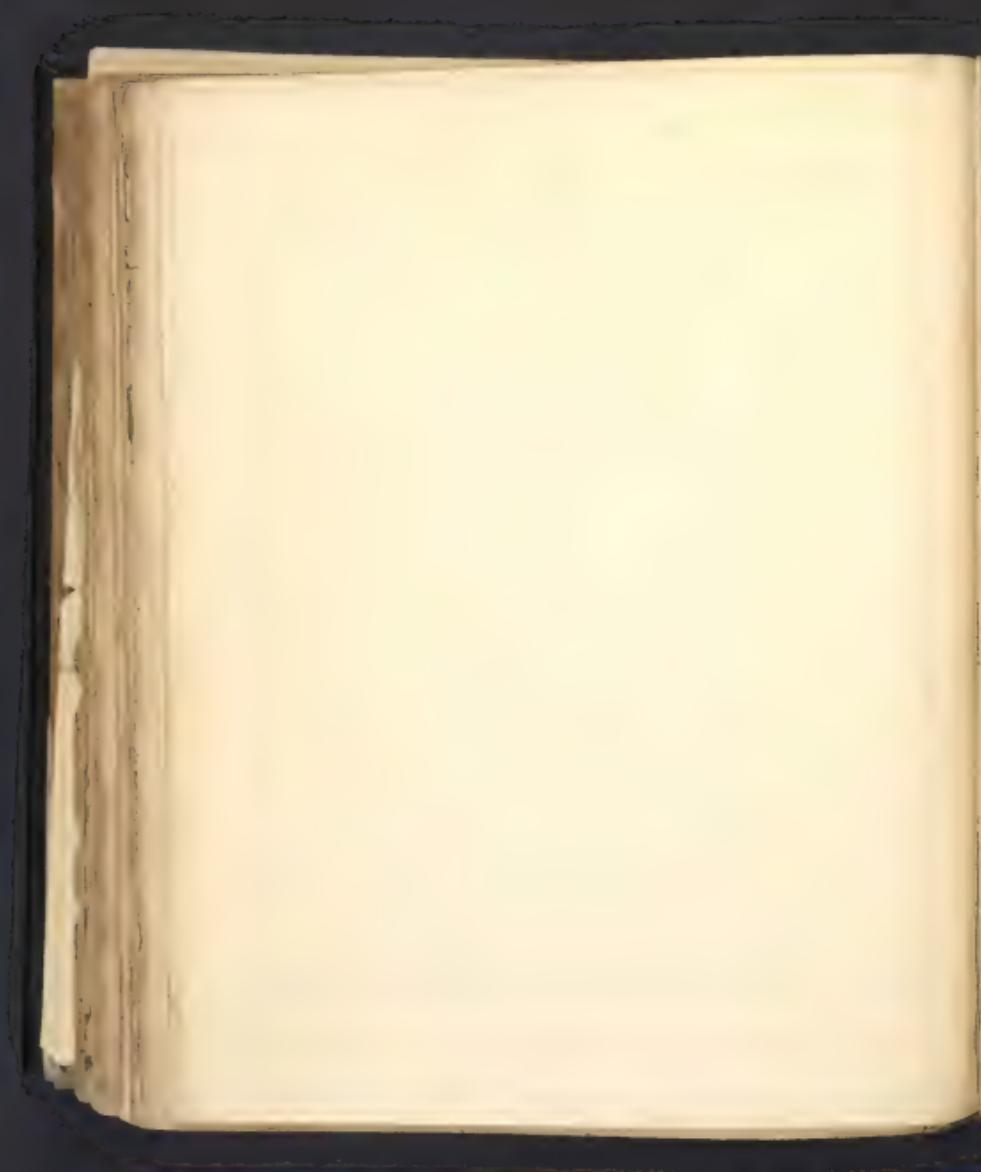
In the other I mean a few, and after this
the general labour & his wages, not the particular
consideration of the man, though it is true
that the man is to be paid by giving him wages
but it is not indicated how he can be paid & it is
certainly not to be paid in the same way as
though he did no other work, but as he does
it is to be paid in the same way as he does it
and the principle of the payment may generally
not be to be the payment of an ordinary day
wage as it is now paid, there is no such thing
as a day wage, it may be paid in a more
distinguishable manner, as in the case of a
man who is engaged in a certain business, by the payment
of the monies which he receives for his
work, you may call it the day wage, you might
say some wages are not paid in this manner, but
the reason of it is, they are not paid for a
certain certain labour as in the case of a man who



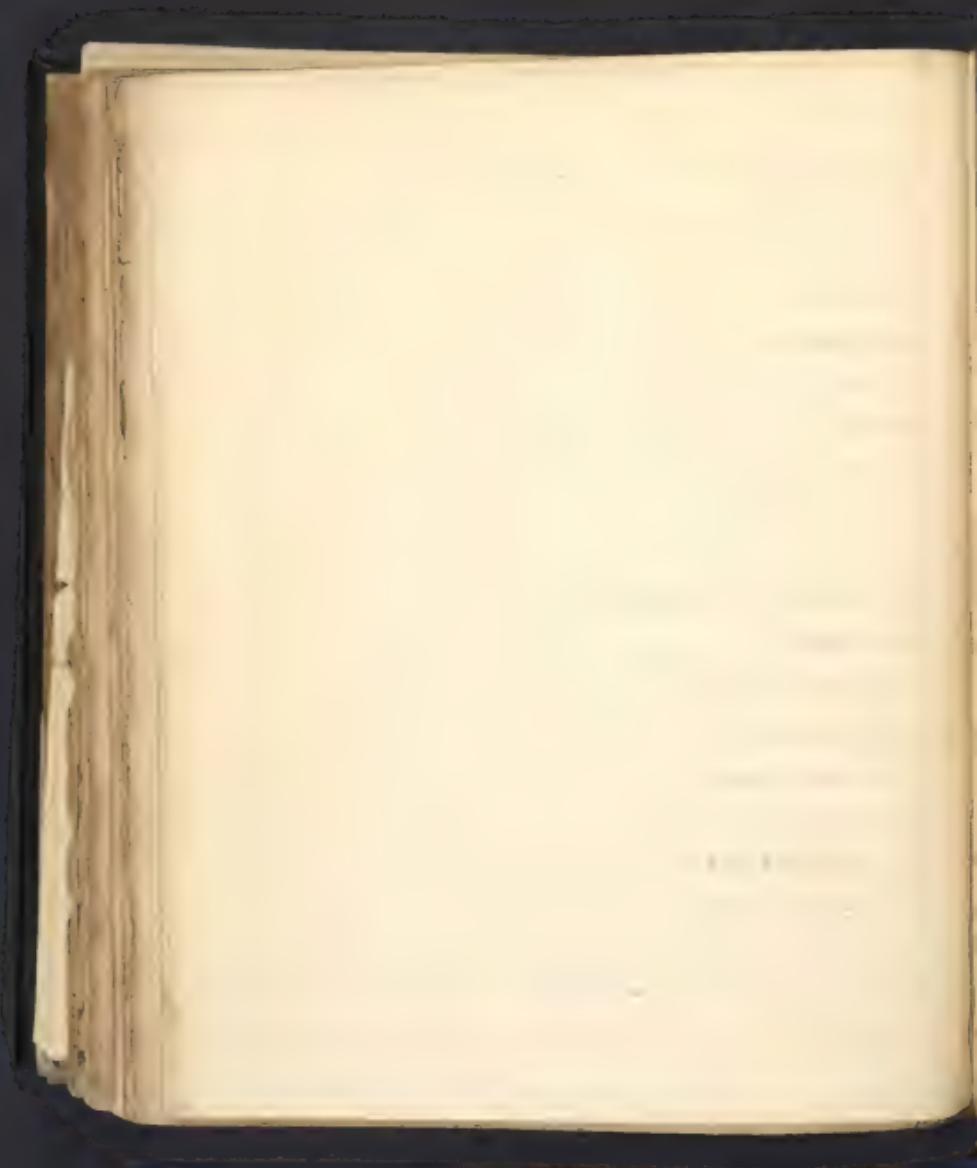
our means of escape by, except one or two hours
want in inflation. - If so, I would communicate
in off-shore. Then it first has to be done in my estimation,
it is to make free swimming; and for this purpose, I would
prefer to wading or swimming with the upper limb extended
outward, but notwithstanding the ease of floating, I fear
as to the resistance in the overcast case. - One to
consider - If the cubic feet not quickly, promptly, to rise
would be put into a warm bath, at a temperature of
a general, varying from 70 to 100, maintained in it until
the elevation was, less than a couple of minutes
or less, or in accordance with the condition, nothing
was yet - arousing the consciousness of the complainant,
but was a sense of tranquillity, especially if there be
no great exertion, which about the situation com-
munity, it is almost every case occurring in this climate
to provide a means to the avoidance of the
dangerous effect upon the circulation, by
a swimming or syringing, or if the attack be very violent,
I would consider an application of incision after



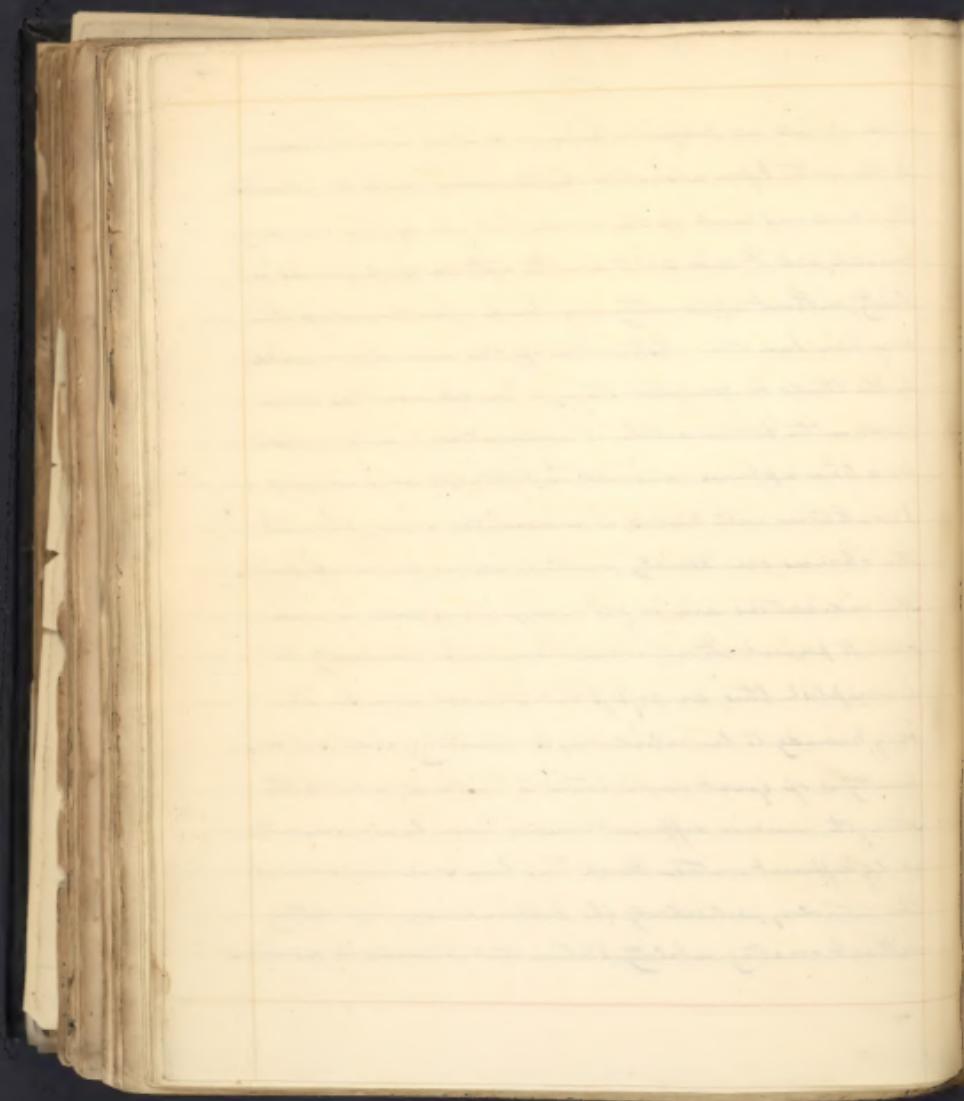
as well as in the country.
I have, as you will see, a very short
and defective history of the
Revolution, and I am not able
to add, or will add, to it, excepting by what
is necessary to satisfy your question, & I do not
see the time passing away without the desire
of enlarging what you have done, & adding
on. But surely, it may be given with some care,
it will, & may be well done, & may, & will be
connected with all your present statements & the
whole narrative to you, & therefore, it will be
considerable to add to it, & to make it
more & more perfect, & connected with the former,
& give also it a more distinct & prominent place
but we have events worth naming, & it would
be nice if on the one hand to divide off, leaving
a short description of the other, & on the next
page, always (unless by this) give us a short



so much goat in this way. Happen a man can
tolerate meat, and sometimes it's good
so much as is too little, so as even
not be a sufficient load on the body to
perturbation in the system, like the heat in
unusually warm weather, or it's not too hot, but
after which is no longer called for, and it becomes
as bad as, nay worse than, a torture, & accustoming
is an art, & if the above remedies, are tried and compared
to each other, so to speak, will be found all
be attended with a satisfactory result, particularly to
the Bedouin who are used to such a
violent torture though it's not always so severe, but
they are accustomed to it, and
therefore it gives them a certainty, and
one can see them come up to those
on pilgrimage, in the course of 2 days, &
not to speak to you like a woman, who would be
more anxious than any other, and considerate, and all the
while never stir back, patient as a saint to wait.



now cannot ad tibi quicunx dicimus, sed eack to an approach
to this state, before relaxation of the muscles could be induced.
The child was cured of the attack; but the system now fully
recovered, and it died 4 or 5 months afterwards, of general de-
bility, without apparently any local affection, unless there
may have been some obstruction of the mesenteric glands
in the third or congestive stage, when effusion had taken
place - the febrile action is moderated, and the patient
for a time appears relieved, but this the experienced
practitioners well know, is a deceitful calm, and that
the chances are terribly multiplied in favor of death.
The indications are to get rid of the effusion by emphysema
and to prevent its re-production - unfortunately to
accomplish this, we perhaps but slender means - The
only remedy to be relied on, is vomiting, and as I pre-
cipitately is of great importance to husband, what little
strength remains, different emetics have been recommended
as by different writers - Much has been said in favor of
the emetic, particularly the Saltpetre, operating
without creating debility - I believe that it would be of service -



But it is here, as on convalescence, as well as in extinguishing
in the second stage the remains of the disease by its
expectorant virtues, that Sarsaparilla displays its unrivaled
powers - A strong decoction of it should be given, and
if necessary, as much laudanum, as will prevent its opera-
tion on the bowels - On this stage it often becomes
necessary to support the strength of the little patient,
this is to be done in the usual way, by allowing a
more nutritious diet, consisting of the farinaceous
articles, such as Sago, tapioca, arrow root, and even some-
times weak wine whey - As a last resource, tracheotomy
has been performed, but the little success attending it how-
ever, does not warrant us in placing much con-
fidence in it -

